

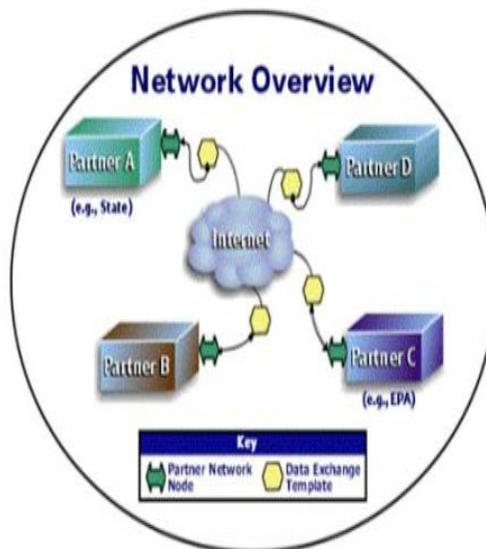
# The Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network) is an Internet-based system used to securely exchange environmental and health data among EPA, states, tribes and territories, and other partners

## Exchange Network Basic Information

The Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network) is an Internet-based system used to securely exchange environmental and health data among EPA, states, tribes and territories, and other partners. With the Exchange Network, partners receive many benefits, including:

- Improved data quality - the Exchange Network helps to eliminate faulty and duplicative data entry, and transmission of invalid submissions.
- Better data integration - partners using the Exchange Network can now integrate environmental information across inconsistent sources, programs and databases.
- Timely availability of environmental data - the use of Web services and the Internet enable the Exchange Network to provide immediate access to published data.
- Reduced burden - partners using the Exchange Network can reduce the costs and burden associated with reporting data.
- Improved decision making - partners may use the Exchange Network to access integrated, high quality data when making environmental decisions.
- Automated data submission and retrieval - Web services allow secure computer-to-computer connection on a scheduled basis.
- Security: the Exchange Network is protected by a centralized security system.
- Authorization and authentication: the Exchange Network allows partners to control access to their data.

### How the Exchange Network Works



Using the Internet and standardized data formats, the Network **partners** (boxes) exchange information between **Nodes** (green arrows that talk both ways) using a [data exchange template](#) (yellow hexagon). A Node is a point of interaction between participants on the Exchange Network, and is a collection of specific technical and policy components that are utilized to provide and receive information via the Exchange Network. EPA's Node on the Exchange Network is the [Central Data Exchange](#). Exchange Network partners agree to develop and use the data standards and schema through the data exchange templates to exchange information, ensuring improved data quality, and better integration across different sources, programs and databases, and increased availability of data.

### Exchange Network Grant Program

The Exchange Network Grant Program provides funding to state, tribal, and territorial partners to encourage data integration efforts using the Exchange Network.



Resolution Number 09-4  
Approved March 23, 2009  
Alexandria, Virginia

As certified by  
R. Steven Brown  
Executive Director

## **STATE/EPA COMMITMENT TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK**

WHEREAS, ECOS has endorsed the State/EPA Vision and Operating Principles for Environmental Information Management via ECOS Resolution 98-6; and

WHEREAS, states and U.S. EPA have committed to using the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (Exchange Network) as the preferred method for sharing environmental information among partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$133 million in grant funds from FY2002–FY2008 to develop the capacity of states, tribes, and territories to participate in the Exchange Network and provide for collective administrative needs; and

WHEREAS, all 50 states and many tribes and territories have invested significant resources to establish a presence on the Exchange Network; and

WHEREAS, states and U.S. EPA have not fully implemented the Exchange Network as their preferred means for sharing environmental data in any program area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

ECOS endorses the continued joint governance of the Exchange Network through the Exchange Network Leadership Council and the Network Operations Board;

ECOS calls on U.S. EPA to join states in a renewed commitment to the Exchange Network by strongly encouraging state and U.S. EPA program offices to expeditiously adopt the Exchange Network as the preferred means of sharing environmental information across all program areas;

ECOS calls on U.S. EPA to work with states to set an aggressive timetable for achieving a complete transition to the Exchange Network for regulatory flows based on the readiness of state and U.S. EPA program offices;

ECOS asks all U.S. EPA program offices to establish bi-directional data exchanges by making their environmental information available to authorized users through the Exchange Network; and

ECOS recognizes that U.S. EPA will need to maintain direct access to U.S. EPA data systems for states that use those data systems as their official systems of record.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 7 2009

THE ADMINISTRATOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Achieving the Promise of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network

**FROM:** Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator

**TO:** Assistant Administrators  
General Counsel  
Inspector General  
Chief Financial Officer  
Chief of Staff  
Associate Administrators  
Regional Administrators

The National Environmental Information Exchange Network is a collaborative effort among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, states, tribes, and territories to exchange environmental data securely over the Internet. The Network facilitates the electronic sharing, integration, and analysis of environmental data from many sources, making it easier to obtain the timely and accurate information we all need for environmental and human health decision making.

At its 2009 spring meeting, the Environmental Council of the States, recognizing both the achievements and the future promise of the Exchange Network, unanimously passed a resolution (attached) calling on EPA to join the states in renewing their commitment to the Network's full implementation. Specifically, ECOS called on the Agency to work with the states to set an aggressive timetable for completing the transition to the Exchange Network for regulatory and national system reporting and to make our data available to the authorized users of the Exchange Network.

In response to the ECOS resolution, I am asking for your continued commitment to achieving the Network's, and now my, strategic vision that the Exchange Network will become the preferred way EPA, states, tribes, and others share and exchange data. By achieving this goal, the Exchange Network will establish itself as the foundation for improving access to environmental data by both environmental professionals and decision makers at all levels of government and by the general public. I look forward to reviewing our progress toward

# 2012 Grant Guidance Language

## OAR Actions

As part of preparing this guidance, EPA has examined the current process for **submitting Air Quality data**, and will do the following in FY 2012 to address potential obstacles to increased use of the exchange network:

- Fund enhancements to AQS to allow automatic loading of data submitted via the Exchange Network;
- Continue efforts (e.g., coordination with the Network Governance and ECOS and air quality data management software vendors to facilitate deployment of upgraded software that produces compatible XML formatted files) to make available information, tools, and guidance needed to help states and other partners transition from “flat files” to the EN XML standard;
- Develop and conduct necessary training sessions for staff submitting air quality measurement results in conjunction with the Regions and ECOS;
- Stop accepting “flat file” submissions from states by the end of 2013; and**
- Stop accepting “flat file” submissions from tribal, territorial, and locally delegated programs by the end of 2015.**

## Regional Actions

Using the resources developed in FY 2011, Regions should work with states to:

- Obtain commitments in the grant workplans from all or all but one state in each Region to submit XML-formatted AQS data by the end of 2012;
- Obtain commitments in the grant workplans from the remaining state in each Region to submit XML formatted AQS data by the end of 2013; and
- Increase the use of the exchange network by non-state submitters of air quality information by making the EN client, XML tools and the necessary training available to them with the goal of 100 percent reporting using the Exchange Network by the end of 2015.